



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCI Inmates Help Beautify Cumberland

TOWSON, MD (May 13, 2008)---The City of Cumberland got some assistance in its beautification effort today from some de-facto Allegany Countians: inmates from Western Correctional Institution.

A five-man crew, supervised by WCI Administrative Officer Bill Jewell and two correctional officers, virtually filled a dump truck with trash and debris from two sites: along Industrial Boulevard and along I-68 near Maryland Avenue. In addition to collecting trash and illegally dumped items, the inmates also weeded and trimmed the areas.

The project is part of Public Safety Secretary Gary Maynard's plan to dramatically increase community enhancement efforts with towns and cites across Maryland using minimum-security inmates for a variety of projects. Mr. Maynard, who visited the Cumberland-Times recently during a trip to the two Division of Correction prisons on U.S. 220, has also vowed to triple the number of inmates working both inside and outside of the prisons.

"Cumberland is an absolutely beautiful area," says Mr. Maynard, "and we are happy to help the city and surrounding areas whenever and wherever we can."

In the past year, all three correctional divisions operated by the Department of Public Safety---the Division of Correction, the Patuxent Institution in Jessup, and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, which runs Baltimore City's facilities--- have performed dozens of community enhancement projects from the mountains to the Eastern Shore.

In Allegany County, WCI inmates previously cleaned and repaired the Dan's Rock overlook area, and provided plants for the Let's Beautify Cumberland campaign. And WCI's Mr. Jewell pledges more projects are on the way.

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